EXTRACT

FROM THE

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES

OF THE

STATE OF NEW YORK,

RELATING TO

ORPHAN ASYLUMS

AND OTHER

INSTITUTIONS

FOR THE

CARE OF CHILDREN.

BY

WILLIAM P. LETCHWORTH,
COMMISSIONER EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT.

TRANSMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE JANUARY 14, 1876.

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The boys are discharged by order of the Mayor, but there is no pains taken to hold them under surveillance afterward. The number of cases reformed is stated to be about ten per cent.

The number of children returned to parents or guardians during the year was one hundred and twenty-three, the number that left without permission eleven. Of those remaining, October 1, eleven were orphans, forty, half orphans and thirty-three had both parents living.

The total expenditures of the institution during the fiscal year ending September 30, 1875, was $23,469.22; of this $4,012.91 was for improvements. The value of its real estate, buildings, fixtures, etc., is $83,600.

Asylum of Our Lady of Refuge.

Buffalo.

This institution, commonly designated as the "House of the Good Shepherd," is situated on Best street. Its buildings are located on a tract of ground three hundred and seventy by three hundred and thirty-four feet, in addition to which is an orchard one hundred and forty-one by six hundred and two feet; the whole being inclosed by a high wooden or plank fence, to prevent intrusion and to guard against the escape of inmates. There are two principal buildings within the inclosure. One is a large three-story stone structure with basement, mainly occupied by the Sisters, the other a large three-story brick building with basement, a little apart from the stone edifice, and appropriated to the inmates.

The objects aimed at by the institution are the reformation of fallen women, and of such idle and vicious girls who may be committed to the custody of the Society for the Protection of Destitute Roman Catholic Children, in accordance with law. By a recent act of the Legislature, a certain class of offending women may be committed to this institution, in the discretion of the magistrate, instead of to the penitentiary. It is also designed to afford a temporary shelter to young girls exposed to temptation, and to aid them in procuring fitting employment. The principal efforts of the institution are directed toward the reclamation of girls who having broken loose from wholesome restraint and entered upon a downward course, are penitent and place themselves voluntarily under its protection.

The institution was founded in 1855, by the Roman Catholic Order of the Sisters of Our Lady of Refuge, and incorporated under the general law January 14, 1866. It is now under the charge of thirty-three Sisters of this Order, of whom Mother Mary, of St. Dominic, is

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Lady Superior. They belong to a cloistered Order. There are no paid employes attached to the establishment, except two men engaged in out-door work. At the date of last visitation, August 24, there were one hundred and four inmates, fifty-five of whom where children from seven to fourteen years of age. The Sisters in charge say: "We have some that have passed that age, and remain, because they are not able to provide for themselves. There are three children quite young, that is to say, between four and five years of age. We do not take infants; that is not our work. The youngest should not be below five years, and we should not take these but to accommodate Sisters in other asylums. Those committed here are kept entirely separate from the little children. The unfortunate adult women sent here are separated from the reformatory girls, between the ages of eight and fourteen. We have three classes:

"1st. The preservation class, composed of those who have not erred.

"2d. The consecrated class, composed of girls and women, who make a vow to remain here a certain time, that is to say, a year.

"3d. The penitents, composed of the women sent here by the police.

"After the penitents have served their time out, and they wish to persevere, they are placed among those in the consecrated class. Those committed are sent here for a certain time, some longer, some shorter. They stay that time, in any event, and as long after as they wish. They, however, can never enter our religious Order.

"The industries we carry on are sewing, knitting, coat and vest making. We also take in washing. If we had a place to accommodate them, we could take in a good many more of these poor women, and get employment for them, but we cannot do it for want of room.

"We look after the smaller reformatory children when they leave us, but the larger girls and women we simply return to their friends. We do as much for them as we can. We cannot do as much as we would like. Some, we hear, are doing well. If they behave well while here, we encourage them to communicate with us."

The Sister, on being asked if their work was encouraging, replied: "We are only discouraged in one way, and that is that we have not more room and means to extend it." In regard to the tempers of inmates, the Sister remarked: "The grown women, for a few hours after their arrival, are sometimes stubborn, but generally after a while come and say, 'Well, I will do now what you wish me to.' We discipline them by depriving them of privileges. When they are very bad we let them wear their week-day clothes on Sunday; and for little children we sometimes turn the dress wrong side out. They are usually inclined to obey without punishment, and are pretty docile." The children are kept, the Sister says, till they are about sixteen years of age, and are then either returned to their friends or placed in good situa-

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tions. Those committed by law must remain till fourteen. The inmates are never allowed to be alone. There is always one of the Sisters with them.

The school-room was found to be small for the number occupying it. The dormitories, also, though neatly kept, were overcrowded. Careful provision was made for the sick in an infirmary department. Among other comforts, hair mattresses were here used. The work-room contained twelve sewing machines. Members of the consecrated class were here at work.

In the laundry were seven of the committed women at work with a Sister, who was also engaged in active labor. No conversation is permitted. A group of girls were also on one of the rear balconies listening to religious reading. It is customary to spend a short time in this way every evening before supper.

Regarding the compensation for the maintenance of inmates, the Sister says: "None of our children are regularly paid for. Sometimes their friends promise to remunerate us, and do so for a week or two and then fail. For the children committed by magistrates from the county of Erie, we receive $1 per week."

A casual visitor to this institution cannot be otherwise than impressed with the patience-trying and laborious work in which this Sisterhood are engaged, and yet it is persevered in with unflagging zeal, and doubtless with much heart-ache. They, as well as all others engaged in like efforts to reform the class committed to their care, are deserving the sympathy and aid of the public.

The Buffalo Orphan Asylum.

Buffalo.

This Asylum, whose object is "to furnish relief and a home for orphan and destitute children," is located on Virginia street, in a pleasant quarter of the city of Buffalo. It was established by the joint action of the various Protestant churches of the city, in 1836, and incorporated April 24, 1837, by a special act of the legislature.

The asylum edifice, which was built in 1850, is of brick, in the Italian style of architecture, and consists of a main with two parallel wings. It is two stories high, with an attic and basement in addition. It is well lighted and has high ceilings. The windows are adjusted by cords, weights and pulleys. It is warmed by coal stoves, lighted by gas and supplied with water from the city works. It is capable of accommodating about one hundred inmates The dining-room, kitchen and laundry are in the basement. An urgent want was felt

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for play-rooms for boys and girls. The grounds are well inclosed, but its limited space admits of no garden. The institution is supplied very largely with vegetables from the extensive grounds of its president.

Adjoining the Asylum yard is a frame school-house. Here the children of the Asylum are instructed, together with a limited number of children from the neighborhood. The school is under the charge of the Department of Public Instruction of the city.

The financial affairs of the Asylum are controlled by a Board of Trustees. Its internal affairs are managed by a Board of Directresses. It is under the immediate charge of Mrs. Robert McPherson, Matron, who, with the exception of an interval of nine months, has been in charge six years. This lady taught one of the first charity schools in the city of Perth, Scotland. The matron has under her direction a nurse, chambermaid, seamstress, cook, laundress and dining-room girl.

In regard to the kind of helpers selected and the character of the surroundings that children ought to have, Mrs. McPherson says: "We try to have persons of character employed in the institution, and to have all the surroundings of the children neat and clean, such as will tend to elevate their young minds and excite their ambition." Mrs. McPherson, on being asked how she thought this work of caring for children should be carried on to render it most efficient, said: "I think our Protestant asylums do not prosper as well as they might in consequence of not having the right kind of help. We ought to have a Protestant Sisterhood composed of ladies, whose object would be simply to do the work for its own sake. This would insure workers of a refined character."

The children in the Asylum are variously dressed. Great pains is taken to keep them clean. They are required to bathe once a week. Vocal music is taught by the Matron's Sister, and a lady from the city comes on Sundays to teach the children to sing hymns.

In the early part of 1874, when the children from the county poor-house were transferred to Asylums, twenty-six of the number were placed here. Of these only three on the date of visitation, August 19, remained, the rest having, through the kind solicitude of the managers, been placed in good homes. Up to that time seventy-one children in all had been received from the Superintendent of the Poor.

The inmates appeared to be in good health. No case of sickness occurred the past year; but, during the year preceding our visit, there were three deaths in the institution, the first for a number of years.

Children are taken between the ages of two and twelve years, and placed out as soon as good homes can be found. Mrs. McPherson remarks in reference to the age for receiving children, "the younger

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they are when they arrive the better. After they are seven years old it is pretty hard to weed out the bad that is in them."

Due attention is paid to industrial and religious training. The children, boys and girls, are taught to sew and knit, and some very excellent specimens of their handiwork were shown in the shape of ornamental pieces of furniture, embroidery, etc.

The matron being a firm believer in the necessity of basing all true reform on Christian teaching, every opportunity that the domestic economy of the house will permit is availed of to inculcate religious sentiments. There is morning and evening worship; grace is said before and after meals, and texts and hymns are committed to memory, and the children asked to repeat them on various occasions in which the sentiment or truth which they embody has a fitting application. The matron says: "I think Biblical knowledge does the children more good than any thing else. I could not accomplish any thing without religious teaching." The evening worship in winter is prolonged, and is generally preceded by some entertainment which the children can enjoy, and which gives them a taste for home-life. Among the amusements the matron encourages the children to entertain themselves, by testing each other's knowledge on subjects which are supposed to be familiar to all. Questions are quickly put and the answers are expected to be prompt. This exercise is often the occasion of much merriment, especially when adults participate in it and a wrong answer happens to be given. The pastime has a tendency not only to stimulate thought, but to make the pupils ready in expression. The ambition of the children is aroused, their desire to excel is awakened, and its effect is seen in the ardent desire to increase their stock of general knowledge. The evening amusements are followed by reading and instruction from the Scriptures — closing with singing and prayer.

In "placing children out," all reasonable precautions are taken to obtain for them suitable homes. More concern is felt for the moral character of the guardians than for their material well being. Children are placed out three months on trial, after which some settlement is effected, either by indenture or adoption if both parties desire it. More difficulty is found in disposing of girls than boys, which is owing, the matron thinks, to a want of Christian charity and patience on the part of those taking them, and to the difficulty of placing them in suitable families. Parties applying for girls, she thinks, "either expect to find one without faults or to procure a girl out of whom they can make a perfect drudge." The asylum has connected with it a visiting committee who look after the children when they leave the institution.

Of the children who have gone out from the asylum, the matron informed us many have attained respectable standing in the world.

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Some are in business, some are married and have become happy wives and mothers, and one girl is now in New York city studying music under a professional teacher. The matron makes it a practice to correspond with all the children who leave the asylum. One year we learned she received as many as forty-nine letters.

The house was found to be under good management. The rooms were clean and well aired. The dormitories are furnished with double wooden bedsteads, and are connected with a bath-room. The clothes-rooms of both boys and girls are neatly kept.

In the dining-room were fifty tiny glass vases filled with fragrant flowers. These are regularly supplied by a lady interested in the institution, and are placed upon the children's tables during meals, presenting a bright appearance, and bringing to these little ones a taste of summer delights.

The number of children in the asylum October 12th, was seventy-six; forty-five boys and thirty-one girls. Thirteen of these were orphans, thirty were half orphans, and thirty-three had both parents living. Thirty-two were of foreign parents and forty-four of native. The number received during the year was one hundred and fourteen. The number placed out by adoption was sixteen, the number indentured five, returned to parents or guardians seventy-two, left without permission three, otherwise discharged two.

The sum of its investments was $31,339.51; the disbursement during the year for investment was $3,000; for all other purposes, $7,494.30.

The number of children received in the asylum since its organization is 2,272. The number has been increasing from year to year in the following proportion:

In 1870 it was		46
" 1871	"	62
" 1872	"	62
" 1873	"	74
" 1874	"	109
" 1875	"	113

It will be seen that since 1870 its work has increased over two-fold. It has connected with it a large force of earnest workers, and its affairs are under efficient management. There is no doubt but that besides the elevating moral influence it exerts upon the community, the burdens of taxation are much reduced through its benevolent agency.

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The Charity Foundation of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the City of Buffalo.

Buffalo.

This institution occupies what was formerly a spacious family mansion, erected on a large lot on Rhode Island street, between Sixth and Seventh streets. Pleasant shade and ornamental trees surround it, and a lawn embellished with flowers, stretches in front. The porch and windows of the house, at the time of visitation, were tastefully ornamented with flowering plants, the whole presenting a home-like aspect.

The Foundation was incorporated under the general law July 28th, 1858. Its objects, as set forth in its charter, are, "The relief, shelter, support, education, protection and maintenance of indigent, sick or infirm persons, including indigent orphans and half orphan children, and all such children as the Providence of God shall have left in a destitute and unprotected state and condition, giving preference to those who are members of the Protestant Episcopal Church, but admitting to the benefits of this charity all persons who will accept the religious ministration of the Protestant Episcopal Church."

As an exposition of the scope of this work, it is elsewhere stated: "This Foundation rests upon a charter obtained from the Legislature of the State of New York, and covering a wide range of charities. It was the intention of the founders, and has been the intention of those interested in the management ever since, to establish upon this Foundation a complete system of benevolent institutions, so arranged as to be mutually protective, and to enable the Protestant Episcopal Church of the city of Buffalo to carry out the letter and spirit of her Divine Lord's principles of charity. We labor, therefore, in the interests of this Foundation, not simply to build up institutions, but to open homes and houses of refuge, where the church can receive and extend a loving care over such of her children as have been overtaken by misfortune and helplessness."

A Home for Aged and Destitute Females was opened in 1858, on Washington street. For several years a house of moderate dimensions afforded sufficient accommodations for the inmates, but it having been determined in the Spring of 1866 to open an Orphans' Ward, and the number of destitute women claiming protection being greatly on the increase, the building now occupied by the Foundation, on Rhode Island street, near Niagara, was purchased. The financial affairs of the Foundation are controlled by a board of twenty-one managers. The conduct of its internal affairs are intrusted to a board of associate managers, composed of ladies representing the different Protestant Episcopal parishes of the city. It is under the immediate superin-

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tendence of a matron. It is required that officials in immediate charge shall be communicants in good standing of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

The building is heated by steam and lighted with gas. Water is distributed in pipes, through the different floors. The children occupy the orphans' ward, a large two-story brick building constructed for the purpose, and standing in the rear of the main. The outlook from the upper windows is quite extensive, taking in Fort Erie, the lake, and Niagara river in the distance. The school in this department is taught by a lady of culture; her salary is paid by the Department of Public Instruction, and the school comes under its direct supervision. The school-room is furnished with blackboards, maps, organ, and modern appliances generally. The children are instructed in drawing, and are taught to sing by note. The smaller children have a kind of an infant school by themselves, in which they are amused by blocks and sundry other contrivances for their entertainment. On the first floor of the main building is the chapel, furnished with an organ and the usual accessories of places of worship. Services are conducted daily, by the chaplain of the institution.

The children were variously dressed, and appeared particularly clean, with their hair neatly combed. On date of visitation, August 25, there were thirty-one children in the institution; nineteen were girls and twelve, boys. The matron, Mrs. Susan Graham, furnished the following information: "The youngest child in the house is four years old; the oldest is a boy of thirteen years. The largest number of children ever in the institution at one time was forty-eight. Children are not retained after fourteen years of age. A correspondence is kept up with the children after they have been put out. A secretary has this matter in charge, and the children are encouraged to write themselves." As an instance of many cases of distress relieved by the charity, the matron related the following: "A poor girl had been in the institution some time; she was taken away by her father to keep house for him. He was a miserable drunkard. The girl at last got sick. We tried to get her back, and succeeded. I never saw a girl more pleased than she was to return. It was a constant expression of gratitude with her. She lived to be sixteen years old and died here."

In regard to industries, the matron remarks: "We teach our girls to sew on the sewing machine. At one time, all the girls' clothes were made by them. All the clothing used is made in the house. The old people do most of the mending and knitting. We made, last year, one hundred yards of rag carpet." Connected with the institution is a fine garden. The matron, in speaking of it, says: "We raise in the garden all the vegetables we use, and have beside sold about one hun-

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dred dollars worth already. We are selling some every day, and still have all we need."

The girls' dormitory is a well-lighted, clean room, brightened with illuminated mottoes, which hang over each bed. It is furnished with single, iron bedsteads, with spring slats. The beds are covered with snow-white counterpanes. Adjoining this dormitory is the matron's sleeping apartment. The boys' dormitory is furnished with double bedsteads. The matron's assistant sleeps on this floor. The sick room is also on this floor, but is very little used, no sickness having been in the ward for four years, and no deaths having occurred among the children for five years. The house was found in excellent condition, and reflects credit upon all concerned in its management.

At the date of October 1st, 1875, there were in the Home eight orphans, nineteen half-orphans, and five children who had both parents living. Fourteen of the children were of native and eight were of foreign parentage. Twenty-one came from Erie county, and eleven from other counties. Eight were partially supported by friends, and twenty-four wholly by the institution.

The main building of the institution was erected about forty years ago, and is without any adequate system of ventilation. The material of which it is constructed is stone, and, with the exception of the Orphans' Ward, seems contracted and not entirely adapted to its present use. A scheme is, we are informed, under the consideration of the Board of Managers, for selling the premises at present occupied, and erecting a plain, spacious and commodious edifice, with all modern improvements, on a site owned by the Foundation, on Fourteenth street, near Jersey street.

This lot is elevated, having a dry soil and excellent drainage. It is situated amidst highly improved surroundings, having in its vicinity the city park, upon the beautifying of which large sums have already been expended. The site is an attractive one, and will become still more so when the trees now newly planted shall have attained stately proportions.

The Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Orphan Home.

Buffalo.

This institution originated through the benevolent efforts of the members of the congregation of the German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church, stimulated by the zeal of their pastor, the Rev. Christian Volz. It was organized in March, 1864, and incorporated by special act of the Legislature April 14, 1865. Its affairs are managed by a Board of nine Trustees, of whom the Rev. Christian Volz is President. Its

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work is carried on in two establishments, one in Hickory street, a Home for girls, and another on a large farm at Sulphur Springs, for boys. These will be spoken of separately.

The Home on Hickory street was first instituted. The lot upon which it is situated is eighty by one hundred and twenty-two feet, and there stood upon it at the outset the parsonage of the late Rev. Francis H. Guenther. This man was greatly beloved, and the respect in which his memory was held after his death strengthened the desire to perpetuate his home to the uses of God and charity. The brother of this worthy clergyman, a benevolent citizen of New York city, donated to this object the sum of $2,000, and with this money the parsonage was purchased, and thus secured as an Orphans' Home. The house was immediately enlarged, and opened for the reception of inmates May 9, 1865. During the year nine orphans were admitted, the first two being children of soldiers who died in the late war. During the three following years thirty-one additional children were admitted. In 1868 it was deemed that a separation of the sexes should be made, and a distinct Home established for the boys. Accordingly a very judicious purchase of rich and valuable land, with a large building upon it, formerly a hotel, at Sulphur Springs, was made January 29, 1869, and the boys were transferred there.

In the rear of the house, on Hickory street, was erected a brick edifice, which contains the kitchen, dining rooms, dormitories, bathing and clothes-rooms. It is well constructed, heated by furnace, lighted by gas and ventilated by wall flues. Water is supplied from the city works. The drainage is good. This establishment is under the immediate charge of Sister Louisa A. Adelberg, of the Order of Deaconesses of the Lutheran Church in Germany. Upon application of the President of the Board of Trustees to the Mother House for a Sister, she was dispatched to America to take the charge of the Home. She had been for seventeen years, before coming here, working in hospitals, in children's homes, and other places wherever sent. The name of her Mother House in Germany is Neuendettelsau. It is situated in Bavaria, and was established by Pastor Loehe in 1854. The Order of Deaconesses was instituted by Theodore Fliedner, an eminent German Divine, in Kaiserwerth, on the 13th of October, 1836. Since this time their numbers have rapidly increased, and now they are to be found scattered far and near, tending the sick, training children, and trying to reform the fallen. From Sister Louisa we learned the following particulars regarding the Order and her own labors:

"First, we enter as scholars, then we are novices, and then, if we have done our work well, we are qualified to become Sisters. Some have to wait a long time, some a short time. I have been in America

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six years. I receive $125.00 a year to buy clothes and for gifts. We do not work for money. When the Sisters are unable to work they can go back to the Mother House, and remain there during their lives: but while away from it they are required to make quarterly reports. All the Sisters are at the disposal of the Mother House, in Germany, and must go wherever they are sent. They comprise ladies from the highest families."

In speaking of the capacity of the institution, the Sister said "We could accommodate altogether fifty inmates, or, if pressed, perhaps, sixty." At the date of visitation there were in the Home thirty girls and four little boys, between three and four years of age. The latter are kept here in consequence of their tender years. The average number of inmates is thirty.

A school is maintained on the premises taught by the Sister. The larger girls spend six hours a day in the school; the smaller, only three. The school-room is on the second floor of the building. It contains neat desks and the usual furniture of a school-room. The children are taught both German and English. The Home possesses a library containing about two hundred volumes.

Religious service is held morning and evening. The catechism of the Lutheran church is taught, also the History of the Bible. A Sunday school is held in the Home, and the children attend Divine service in the Lutheran St. John's Church on the opposite side of the street. A serious defect in the institution is the lack of sufficient play-ground. Good sense is displayed by the Sister in her methods of discipline. The usual penalty enforced for disobedience of rules, is that of limiting recreation to the boundaries of the house. Only in rare cases is it necessary to inflict corporal punishment, and then only for grave offenses.

At the time of visitation it was observed that one little girl, an invalid, was kept in a cot, while the other girls were sitting around her cheerfully working, and at the same time entertaining her with their girlish chat. Thus, while the little sufferer's wants were fully looked to, she was enabled to share the sympathy of her playmates and make one of their number. The children are taught to sew and knit as well as to do house-work. Three sewing and one or two knitting-machines are in use, and the children are taught to sew and knit both by hand and on the machines. All the clothing is made on the premises. The children wear woolen stockings in the winter, and have a very large supply of clothing. Besides doing the work of the house, the girls earned $100 last year by working for the stores. This was earned in part by the knitting-machines. Yarn is furnished and the girls knit it into stockings at a given price per pair.

Each girl, when old enough to do so, makes her own bed. There

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are forty-one iron bedsteads in use. The beds are protected on the sides with a strap or brace, thus allowing the use of a liberal quantity of straw. This is changed in the bed-ticks twice a year. Every two weeks there is an entire change of bed-linen, but the change is made in parts. Woolen blankets are used. The sick-room is nicely carpeted.

In the clothes-room two shelves and four hooks are allowed for each child, with her name and number affixed. Many of the little girls, true to maternal instincts, had here preserved with care, their dolls and doll-bedsteads.

On the second floor is a large bath-room. Connected with this is a room for shoes, each girl having a compartment for herself. The children bathe once a week, or oftener, if necessary; but more frequently in summer than in winter. The girls rise in summer at half-past five, and in winter at half-past six. The smaller girls retire at seven, while the larger are permitted to stay up until nine. Sister Louisa says: "We have no servants in this house. Our large girls must do the house-work."

The basement contains the laundry and vegetable cellar. In the laundry, on the day of visitation, were eight girls, aged from twelve to fifteen years, doing the washing of the house. The bread, which is excellent, is baked on the premises in a brick oven; and the children are taught to make it. The vegetables used in the Asylum come from the farm at Sulphur Springs. The farm also supplies milk, from which all the butter used in the Home is made by the girls. It was thought that the children could be maintained for $75 a year each.

Our visit to the Home was unexpected, and yet the Sister received us as though it were a day for reception. The children's hair was very neatly combed, and their faces were clean and bright. Their dresses were tidy and in perfect order. The windows of the house were transparent, the floors well scrubbed, and the clothes and closets in perfect order. In fact, order and cleanliness reigned supreme, and everybody was cheerful and happy. The good lady in charge, who had given up her life to this noble work, had no other associates in the discharge of her multifarious duties, including the care of an invalid and several small children, than the little loving hearts about her. It was evident, however, that she was overtasked and needed one or more assistants.

The department for boys at Sulphur Springs, about four miles southerly from the city, is under the immediate charge of Mr. John Muller, Superintendent, or House Father, assisted by his wife, the House Mother, or Matron. A lady assistant and two of the girls from Hickory street were temporarily helping her with the general housework. A farmer is also employed. The building occupied is a frame structure, three stories high and forty by sixty feet, having a

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porch extending along its front. In the rear of the main building there has been recently constructed a frame addition, three stories high, twenty-four by forty-four feet. The building is surrounded with pleasant shade trees. It was dedicated to its present use October 11, 1868, and the boys were transferred from the Home on Hickory street in Buffalo, January 29, 1869. Twenty acres of land were first secured with the building, since which, additional purchases have been made, making in all one hundred and five acres, comprising garden, meadows, orchard and woodland. Between twenty and thirty acres of land are unsubdued. Two acres were planted in carrots, one and a half in onions, two in cabbages and eight in potatoes. Oats, rye and corn are also grown. Eight cows are kept.

At the date of visitation, August 24, there were thirty-six boys in this department of the Home, between the ages of two and fifteen. Two of the children were from the poor-house; one was suffering from curvature of the spine. They were aged respectively five and twelve years, and possessed of average intelligence. The county pays $1 a week each for their maintenance. Another boy aged sixteen years has but one arm. In addition to the thirty-six inmates, there were ten boys in the city learning trades, who were partially supported by the institution, and who are regarded as belonging to it. They return when sick, and report to the Pastor in the city every Sunday on their behavior during the week. All the boys are said to have turned out well. One of them is now earning $3 a day. Five boys, half-orphans, were reported to have run away from the institution. In regard to boys leaving, the President remarks: "Boys having relatives living are sometimes discontented, and want to be away, but those having no other home are glad to stay, and generally turn out the best. We do not know of one of our boys who has turned out badly. We never have had one in jail."

The chapel is a small separate frame building, and is used for school purposes on week days. It contains an organ. A Sabbath school is held here every Sunday afternoon. Morning and evening prayers are conducted; grace is said before and after meals. Six hours a day are spent in school, but no school is kept during the months of July and August. German and English are both taught.

The accommodations of the house are ample for even a greater number of inmates than it contains. The rooms are large, ceilings high, and the sashes of the windows hung with cord and pulley. The dormitories are furnished with single iron bedsteads. One disadvantage under which the institution labors is that the cellar is damp and often flooded with water, owing to the construction of a dam near by which causes the creek to overflow. This was constructed against the wishes of the managers by an outside party. The cellar is used for storing

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coal. Rain water is saved in cisterns. The boys are reported as being healthy, only one having died during the year. The institution is crippled for want of funds, and many needed improvements have in consequence to be deferred.

In regard to the aims of the managers, we have the following information: "Our object is to give a Christian education to children. It is a home for orphan, half-orphan and destitute children." In regard to the ages for receiving children the President says: "We take children here at every age. We have had even infants. We keep them till they are eighteen years old. Girls after leaving us generally go into families to do housework. Some get married."

In regard to the system of looking after children, the President says: "We had a system for looking after the children that had been put out, but could not carry it into effect. It was this: Each child had what we call a judgment-book, and every week this was submitted for inspection. It was found to be impracticable, for the reason that the masters and mistresses would not take the trouble to write it up."

At the date of October 1, 1875, there were, in both the Hickory street and Sulphur Springs departments, forty-two orphans and thirty half orphans. Six were of native and sixty-six of foreign parentage. They were mostly from Erie county. Three were partially supported by friends, four by the institution, and sixty-five in part by Erie county. During the year sixteen inmates were received; three were returned to parents or guardians, six left without permission, and eight were otherwise discharged.

The total indebtedness of the institution was $11,000. Its expenditures during the year were $8,495.54, of this $1,684.92 was paid out for needed improvements.

The Lutheran Church deserves great credit for originating this charity and for the sacrifices that have been made to establish it. The conception of a home for boys away from the city, where they may devote themselves to agricultural pursuits, is a good one, and it is to be regretted that the property is so heavily incumbered with debt. It would seem that this burden should be lifted off by the charitably disposed, and the institution be thus enabled to go on more freely with its beneficent work.

The German Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum of Buffalo.

Buffalo.

This institution was formerly located at 221 Batavia street. During the past year a spacious and commodious brick edifice has been erected

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on Best street, to which the children, forty-three in number, were transferred on June 1, 1875. The present building is a quadrangular structure, with a front tower and rear projection. Its plan contemplates the addition of parallel wings at each end of the main, with gables facing outward. It will accommodate at present about one hundred inmates and over three hundred when completed. Its location is high and airy. The lot upon which it stands adjoins the city park, and contains seventeen acres. It was formerly used as a cemetery. The selection of the site, and the building itself, reflect great credit upon its benevolent projectors and those who have worked so zealously for its establishment.

This Asylum was first established in 1852, and placed, December 8, under the charge of the Roman Catholic Order of the Sisters de Notre Dâme. Its financial affairs are controlled by a Board of Trustees.

The Asylum grew out of the following conditions: The severe cholera season of 1849 threw a large number of orphans upon the charity of the members of St. Mary's Church for support. These were at first cared for in families of the congregation, and for several years afterward, when it was found that some permanent provision must be made for this constantly increasing class. On August 6, 1856, the Orphan Asylum was incorporated under the general law. The institution is now under the immediate care of five Sisters of the Order of St. Francis, Sister Mary Gabriella being Sister Superior. Orphan, half-orphan and destitute children of all ages, up to ten years, are admitted.

At date of visitation, August 24, there were in the house sixty-three children; twenty-four girls and thirty-nine boys. The youngest child in the Asylum was one and a half, and the oldest, a girl, fourteen years old. A school is maintained on the premises, and is taught by one of the Sisters. Early hours are kept, the children rising at six in the morning and retiring at half-past seven o'clock at night. The parents of a few of the children pay $1.50 per week toward their support. Children, as soon as they are ready to leave, are discharged by adoption into families, or apprenticed to farmers or tradesmen.

The dormitories are furnished with single, iron bedsteads, each bed having a side-strap of iron, which keeps the straw bed in its place, and strengthens the frame. The asylum possesses ample bathing facilities, and the children are required to bathe once a week. It is customary to cut the boys' hair short. In one of the rooms in the basement, a little company of girls was observed ironing, under the supervision of a Sister, and in another, a band of little boys was piling up wood, with a manifest ambition to do their work well.

From Sister Mary Clara, who was in charge on the day of visitation, the following information was obtained: "We train the girls to do housework, and the boys to work in the garden. We have a man hired

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to do out-door work, but keep no paid girls. We do all the work ourselves, with the help of the children. We discipline them by keeping them from recreation, or making them sit away from the others at the table. Sometimes we have to resort to corporal punishment. It is difficult in all cases to make the children mind, because so many of them come from homes where they have not received proper training. We have received children eleven and twelve years old, that did not know their *a b c*. I did not think, before entering upon this work, that there was so much to do. Parents, when they are not able to manage their children, sometimes bring them to us and ask us to take them, saying, 'I cannot manage this child.'"

A large number of the German people, of Buffalo, have made considerable sacrifices toward this charitable enterprise, and considering the valuable site the corporation has acquired, the commodious buildings erected upon it, the number of children that are now receiving moral, religious and industrial training under its auspices, the establishment of the asylum upon a more permanent basis may justly be regarded as a cause for congratulation by all interested in the welfare of homeless children.

Le Couteulx St. Mary's Institution for the Improved Instruction of Deaf Mutes in the City of Buffalo.

Buffalo.

This institution is located at 125 Edward street, corner of Morgan street, in a healthy quarter of the city. The following incidents are connected with its history. In 1839 Lewis Le Couteulx deeded a lot containing about one acre of land for the use of a Deaf and Dumb Asylum. In 1849 the heirs of this gentleman confirmed to the Right Rev. Bishop Timon the original benefaction. Having no means to erect a suitable edifice, the Bishop purchased several small frame houses in the neighborhood, and caused them to be moved on the lot in the spring of 1856. Three Sisters of St. Joseph assumed the charge of the new Asylum, and immediately opened a day school for its support, and to enable them to prepare it for the reception of mutes. In October, 1857, the instruction of the deaf and dumb commenced with four female pupils who lived in the house, and a few day pupils, whose homes were in the vicinity. The institution at this time struggled against financial embarrassments, and but for the active benevolence of Bishop Timon the work, we are assured, would have been abandoned. Those at first in charge received their knowledge of the sign language from a graduate of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum of Caen, France. Difficulties of a pecuniary nature again

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arising, the work was suspended for about two years. In the meantime Sister Mary Ann Burke, a member of the Community of the Sisterhood of St. Joseph, was sent to the popular institution under the charge of the late A. B. Hutton, at Philadelphia, to acquire an acquaintance with the mode of teaching deaf mutes which the institutions of the United States had adopted, and preparations for resuming the work were made. A four-story building, twenty-eight by thirty-four, with basement, was completed, affording a spacious dormitory, sitting-room, refectory, kitchen, etc., and the frame houses were converted into class rooms. In 1862 the instruction of the deaf and dumb was resumed, and has been successfully carried on to the present time.

The Asylum realized the most sanguine expectations of its founders in the rapid progress of the pupils. It is stated that, with but few exceptions, all had shown a desire for improvement, and many left capable of performing the duties incident to the practical business of life. The success of the enterprise was so encouraging, and the number of children seeking admittance so large, that the managers were induced, in 1867, to put up an additional wing. Subsequent additions and improvements have also been made, till, at the present time, the edifice has a front extension of one hundred and eighty-eight feet.

The building is lighted by gas, heated by furnaces, and supplied with city water. A Board of Trustees or Directors has the general management of the Asylum, and the Community of the Sisters of St. Joseph the immediate charge, Mother Mary Ann Burke, the Superior of the Community, being at its head. Fifteen Sisters, at the time of visitation, August 26, were engaged in the work, one or more having charge of each department. The Sisters have worked with commendable zeal in the interests of the institution, having spared no sacrifice for the cause, even contributing from their own means to its support, and to their devotion its success is largely attributable. The most recent visitation, of which several have been made, was that of August 26, 1875. The number of inmates at that time was seventy-eight, forty boys and thirty-eight girls. The average age was about thirteen years. The demands upon the institution are so greatly in excess of its accommodations, that a further addition has become an obvious necessity. Mother Mary Ann remarks: "We find ourselves in great need of room. During the past year the accommodations were somewhat enlarged by changes in the interior, but still they are insufficient for present requirements. We have found it necessary to increase the force in all departments. We take children from the county and from other sources. We now receive for county children $300 a year. We take children from six years of age upward. Deaf mutes are supported for five years. Any specially talented receive aid for a longer period."

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How far the dispositions of this class of defectives differ from those of other people is a matter of some importance, and the remarks of those who have had experience will be read with interest. On this point Mother Mary Ann remarks: "Deaf mutes are very sensitive, but this is in a great measure owing to their misunderstanding the intention of others. I tell them they must not judge from appearances, that it does not necessarily follow that there is want of interest in them if they are passed by without notice, as the person's mind may be occupied with something else. I do not think they are naturally more passionate than other children, nor are they more given to vice. I discipline them as I would ordinary children, by depriving them of little things in which they take pleasure. Severe punishment is never necessary. Many of them are self-willed, on account of their parents not knowing how to manage them. Instruction is the best means of curing them of this. You can appeal to their sense of honor. Should they get into violent fits of temper, we wait till this is over, and then tell them that they have no excuse for such manifestations. It is a daily work to endeavor to teach them to govern their temper.

"The studies pursued are the acquisition of language by means of writing, speaking and signs, general history, geography, grammar, mental and practical arithmetic, composition, penmanship and drawing. We teach the Visible Speech Method which was introduced by Professor A. S. Bell, of London. One of the Sisters and myself went to Boston and spent several months there learning his system. In the latter part of 1873 it was introduced here, and it is now a general study for all the classes. I think for the greater number of deaf mutes it is of little value, but for those who have lost their hearing through sickness, and can spend the time to acquire it thoroughly, it is a great benefit. It has nothing to do with mental culture. It serves to keep up the voice of those who have lost their hearing from four years of age upwards; but for those who have never spoken it requires a great deal of time to acquire it. They can be taught to say some words, but many deaf mutes do not seem to have any voice, and their efforts to speak are labored. In teaching it we draw a picture on the board, showing the vocal organs that are used in pronouncing each consonant and in pronouncing each vowel, then for any consonant the position of the vocal organ that is used in uttering it is adopted, and the same plan is followed in the case of vowels. The characters or alphabet in this method form thus a series of pictures. The eye becomes accustomed to these, and a mute who is practised in this system can, by watching a person's mouth while speaking, tell what he is saying although he cannot hear a word; and by recollecting how to place his vocal organs, can himself talk back, though still not hearing any sound." This is the theory, but Mother Mary Ann thinks "that by

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writing and signs alone can conversation be sustained. The best speaker of this method that I ever knew of," she says, "was here once, and we could not converse together without the signs. I asked him if on going to church he could understand what was said, and he told me he could not. No schools that I have ever visited could do without the sign language."

The whole establishment was found to be in excellent order, and the system of housekeeping very thorough. It possesses ample bathing accommodations. The dormitories are furnished with iron bedsteads; snow white counterpanes cover the beds, each pillow having over it a neat white tidy. All sleep singly except the very little ones. The beds, it was said, are all taken apart once a week in summer, and once a month in winter and thoroughly cleaned. It is aimed to give each inmate a separate compartment for clothes.

The institution possesses a garden about three miles from the city, from which it obtains a full supply of vegetables.

The health of the inmates was good; one death had occurred during the year. The school hours are from nine till twelve, and from half-past one till four. The children work or play the remainder of the day. Dressmaking and tailoring are taught. "Many of those who have left us are doing," the Mother says, "remarkably well. The boys become good tradesmen and the girls good dressmakers. Children coming here have every thing to learn, and hence they require to be kept at school longer. The teaching of industrious habits we regard as all important. Especially is it important to teach them self-control." Twenty to thirty boys, on the date of our last visit, were engaged in making cane seats, others were learning to make coats. Four sewing machines were in use.

At the date of October 1, 1875, there were in the institution eighty pupils, six of native and seventy-four of foreign parentage. Sixteen were supported partially by friends, twenty-two by counties, thirty-four by the State, and eight wholly by the institution. The total amount of its indebtedness was $10,687.

It is manifest that the Sisters engaged in this work take pride in the progress made by their pupils, that they devote themselves to the peculiar work with assiduity, and have spared no trouble to acquaint themselves fully with the most improved methods of instruction. The orderly and respectful demeanor of the children indicated the wholesome moral influence under which they were being trained; while the industries taught, apart from their disciplinary worth, must be of great value to both sexes in after-life.

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The Society for the Protection of Destitute Roman Catholic Children, at the City of Buffalo.

Buffalo.

The history of the benevolent work which culminated in the establishment of this society, to partially outline which an attempt has been made in sketching the early struggles and financial embarrassments of the St. Joseph's Boys' Orphan Asylum (and continued in the notice of the St. John's Protectory), would, if fully written, form a most interesting chapter in the growth of charitable enterprise.

"The object of this society is to take charge of and provide for the support, education and training of such idle, truant, vicious or homeless children of both sexes, under the age of fourteen, as may be intrusted by their friends to its protection; and the children of Roman Catholic parents, between seven and fourteen years of age, who may be committed to its custody, by the order or judgment of any magistrate of the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Judicial Districts, together with those of like parentage and age in county poor-houses, and transferred upon the order of superintendents of the poor. It was organized on the 12th of January, 1864, and incorporated on the 25th of April of the same year, by a special act of the Legislature."

The affairs of the society are controlled by a Board of Managers of whom the Rt. Rev. Stephen Vincent Ryan is president. The boys coming under its jurisdiction are sent to its establishment, generally designated as the St. John's Protectory, located at Limestone Hill, in the town of West Seneca; and the girls to the House of the Good Shepherd on Best street, under the charge of the Sisters of Our Lady of Refuge.

The St. John's Protectory may be regarded in one sense as having grown out of the St. Joseph's Male Orphan Asylum, and is a part of the large system of charity under Roman Catholic direction at Limestone Hill. From a conversation with the Superintendent, the Rev. Father Hines, on the day of our visitation, we obtained the following particulars regarding its history:

"Bishop Timon coming to the conclusion that, in addition to the children properly belonging to the institution, we had a class of boys in the St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum who were fit subjects for a reformatory, and as this class was increasing and likely to exert an undesirable influence upon the others, he proposed, in 1862, to establish the St. John's Protectory. He said he would give me his diocese to collect money in. A number of liberal donations were made to us by individuals, and the State allowed us a grant of $3,000. The Society for the Protection of Roman Catholic Children was incorporated in

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1864, and such boys as were suitable subjects for the reformatory were transferred from St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum to the Protectory.

"The erection of the building now in use was begun in 1865 and completed in 1866. I was very much afraid to enter upon this work, but the Bishop assisted and encouraged me. We made the brick for the building ourselves. The edifice is fifty by sixty feet, three full stories high, with attic and stone basement. It was opened on the 14th of October, 1866. Since then another building of fifty by sixty feet has been added. In the spring of 1867, we commenced to build a chair factory. The idea of a chair factory was suggested by Mr. Patrick Barry, of Rochester. I was on a visit there and he took me to the House of Refuge. It seemed to me that it was a light and proper work for boys. Our shop was of brick, two stories high, one hundred feet long by thirty-two feet wide. In the rear stood a small engine and boiler-room. We had it going only about a year when it burned down, and every thing in it was destroyed. This was disheartening; but our managers and friends held a meeting and decided to build again immediately. We tried to save all we could of the old building, put a new roof on a part of it, and went to work and erected another building at right angles, in the rear of the present, two stories high, of brick, eighty feet long by forty-two feet wide. We had our works in operation in January, 1869. Since that time we have been quite successful. Just previous to Bishop Timon's death we raised some funds upon a mortgage, but it has never been paid off."

In regard to the disposal of children, Father Hines said: "If a farmer comes along and we think him a suitable man, and he wants a boy, we let him have one. I never force a boy away. I ask him if he desires to go. Where we find that a boy wants to go, and that a man wants to take him, he is pretty sure to succeed. We work off the boys as fast as we can advantageously. If we did not, it would soon take three houses like this to contain them. We work off forty or fifty some years. Farmers like boys of some size. They do not want to take very little fellows. They are given out under the direction of the Board of Managers. Their meetings are held quarterly. Applications for children are then presented. It is a part of my duty to receive applications, and inform myself as to the character of the applicant, and as to how he lives. Each case is considered. We generally bind the boys until they are eighteen or nineteen, and do not lose sight of them until they are at least eighteen years old. The party taking the boy agrees to give him at least two suits of clothes, and not less than four months' schooling every year. I am required by the Board of Managers to ascertain how he gets along. We assume the responsibility of seeing whether the boy is dealt justly with or not. If I hear that something is wrong about a boy I write to the Pastor of the place

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to find out about it. Applicants for boys must come recommended by letters from the priests in their parish. The Bishop requires priests to have a special care over every boy. If there is any thing wrong the priest writes to me about it. A few weeks ago I got a letter from a priest in a distant town, telling me that a certain man was not treating his boy rightly. I wrote to the man telling him I wanted to know why it was that he was not treating his boy well. The boy I found was unruly; the man whipped him. He was a hot-tempered man. Perhaps he overdid it. They were out drawing hay, and the boy left the horses to go after a swarm of bees. The horses ran away and smashed every thing, and the man was angry and whipped the boy. I had a talk with them both, and they arranged matters. I heard from them since that they were doing well. I had a boy down on Grand Island. They neglected him, and never sent him to school or to church, and he had no Sundays, but had to work all the time. I wrote to the man and said, if he did not give up the boy I would sue him. I took the boy and gave him to another man. The excuse they gave for not sending him to school or church was, that the snow was too deep; but it was not too deep to go into the woods to draw wood. Some of the boys are returned to their parents.

"If a boy cannot obey here he will not obey outside. Even parents are refused in our Board to have their boys back unless they are fit to go. Recently certain parties complained because their boy was not returned. A petition was presented signed by prominent men to have the boy released. I found the boy's record was bad, and I found that there were no better facilities in his home for taking care of him than before. The question was put to the Board, and they decided to keep him. The Managers say any boy guilty of petty larceny should not be released in less than six months. To let such a boy loose in a month is to bring him back worse than he was at first."

In regard to discipline, Father Hines remarks: "The conduct of the boys is marked. Each boy is told when a mark has been made against him. The best boys are allowed white bowls and spoons, and knives and forks in the refectory." In the refectory the tables are classified, and as the boys improve they are promoted from one table to another. Father Hines remarks on this point: "No matter how small the punishment is, if it will effect the purpose, I use it. If I stand at the window and see a boy boisterous, I send for him. I say, 'now rest yourself on this cistern.' It is just these little ways that we use. In other cases I keep them in the school-room during recreation. If there is any thing hard to be done I send an offender to do it. Sometimes the Sisters may slap some of them on the hand. A bad boy is put in the dormitory, or he stays in bed all day. Lying in bed may be pleasureable at first, but it soon becomes painful. If a boy complains that he

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is punished unjustly, I investigate his case. I always give him the benefit of the doubt whenever one exists. If you put a boy down absolutely, it is bad. It is better to make him feel that you have some confidence in him.

"A good many of our boys, now men, work in the city of Buffalo. I had eight or nine, with their wives and children, come to see me recently. They all had homes of their own. Some belonged to the Orphan Asylum and some to the Protectory. We have sent a number of boys west. About three years ago this past summer, one of these boys married a farmer's daughter in good circumstances, and the husband and wife have been here to visit me. Several of the boys have gone into the printing business; two of them are in Chicago comfortably off. There are three of our boys holding official positions in the city; two of them are masters of vessels on the lakes. I have lost sight of a number that have married."

Father Hines was asked in case of a stubborn boy coming to the Protectory, how he would treat him. He said: "Well he comes in, stalks around and says, 'I hain't going to stay here.' He is told to sit down. 'I don't want to sit down!' We let him have his own way and let him stand up if he wants to. By and by the boys come in; his appearance generally amuses them and they laugh at him. When he sees the other boys all sitting down, then he sits down too. He is asked, 'What is your name?' He will hold his head down and mutter something. 'Don't you think you would feel better if you had a wash?' 'I don't want a wash!' A Sister will come and try to take off his coat; 'Let's alone!' They will let him alone. In the afternoon or evening he will say, 'I want to go out.' He will go out and walk back again. By and by it is supper time. He will start up and want to go to supper. He will be put back again. Then the Sister says, 'You must wash; you are dirty and cannot go down in that state.' 'I am as clean as the rest of them!' The next thing, he gets his supper alone; a cup of tea or bread and milk. He washes at last. They have a terror of water and soap. Soon it is bed-time. He has a place given him in the dormitory. He is told to say his prayers. 'I will say no prayers!' 'Bless yourself! did you ever bless yourself?' 'I used to once.' He will kneel down and mutter something. The boys say their prayers and go to bed. He will straggle around, sure to be the last. He is told, 'There's your place, go to bed!' He will want to tumble in just as he is. A Brother will come along and make him take off his clothes and go to bed properly. So ends the first day. In the morning he is sure to be up in time. The Sisters won't let him down to breakfast. They say, 'When you get your hair cut.' He don't want his hair cut. A Sister comes around him and begins to cut it quietly. He commences to cry. She says, 'Don't cry! I will

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fix it up nicely. Then I want you to come to the wash-room, and I will give you a good wash. You cannot have your breakfast until you are clean.' After a little he submits, and by noon he is in better spirits. When such boys have a good crying spell, they are sure to come round pretty soon. He wants to do something. He is sent to help carry wood up from the yard. He is glad to do this. Soon he wants to sit by the Sisters and talks with them. He steals gradually over by their side and begins: 'I saw a boy that was here before.' 'Did you? What is he doing?' 'He is living with such a man.' 'How did you come to get here?' 'I used to be out nights and got with such a boy, and took beer.' So he goes on and tells his whole story to the Sisters. In this way we work upon him, and he will open his whole heart to us. We try to reason with him: 'How good God has been to give you eyes to see and ears to hear, but instead of bestowing these in the service of God, you use them against him.' After a while the boy will submit.

"After four, five or six months he is wanted perhaps by his friends, perhaps by some one else. I ascertain what his record is, and also try to ascertain who it is that wants him. I can tell pretty soon what the home of the father and mother is when I see them. Sometimes I am satisfied to judge from their appearance, without going any further. My report of the boy, made up from his record, may run thus: 'Johnny has been in the institution so long. We find he did not avail himself of the advantages he has had. His standing is such that we think it is better to retain him in the institution. If we should restore him to his parents we fear he would fall back again.' This is given to the Board of Managers, who we find are generally satisfied to act in accordance with this decision. On the other hand, we might often find the boy fit to go out, but the party applying not being suitable, we refuse him the boy. It may be, perhaps, because it is evident he wants him only for some servile purpose. We mean to look after the boy's interest and keep him till the right opportunity presents itself."

In regard to the employment of time at the institution, and other matters, Father Hines says:

"The daily routine is as follows:

5.30 A. M.	There is morning prayer.
6 "	Study and recitation.
7.30 "	Breakfast and various duties, read and spell.
8 "	First division go to work in chair factory.
9 "	Second division, small boys, go to work in cane room.
12 M.	Dinner and recreation.
1 P. M.	Study and recreation, writing, geography and catechism.

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2.30	P. M.	Work in chair factory and cane room.
4.30	"	Second division leaves off work.
5.30	"	First division leaves off work.
5.40	"	Supper and recitation.
6.30	"	Study and recitation
8.30	"	Night prayer and retire.

Our Sunday exercises are:

6	A. M.	Morning mass.
9	"	Religious reading.
11	"	Catechism instruction.
2	P. M.	Miscellaneous reading.
4	"	Catechism instruction.
7	"	Lecture.

Several of the Sisters are engaged in teaching in the school-rooms. From the beginning of the institution to January, 1868, the schools were taught by the Brothers, when, at the suggestion of the judge of Erie county, *ex officio*, a member of the Board of Managers, the idea of securing the Sisters to teach in their stead was adopted. He thought that "if they could teach as well as they could keep house, it would result in good schools and clever scholars." Two Sisters were accordingly engaged for that purpose, and the change has been attended with very satisfactory results.

During the year 1875, four hours a day have been devoted to the school. The Superintendent says: "It appears to work well so far, in securing closer application to lessons and good recitations by the scholars. Those who are strong and well advanced in their studies labor five hours a day, while those who are backward are required to work but three hours daily.

"The Sisters endeavor to make the boys do every thing in a systematic way. We endeavor to inculcate the following ideas: They must honor the school-room, because there the noblest part of their being, their mental life, is brought into exercise. They must honor the Church still more, because it is the house of God. We also inculcate the idea of the preservation of property. I now and then have a long talk with the boys about it. I say to them, 'you are bound to take care of the property of this house; if you do not take care of this property now, you will not take care of your own by and by.' When a boy gets a new pair of shoes it is recorded, and when he wears them out he has to account for them. The same way with his dress, and thus a check is kept upon him which tends to make him careful. The boys make their own beds, under the superintendence of the Sisters. They have to wash their dormitories. The Sisters teach some of the boys to cook. There is one Sister in the kitchen for that purpose.

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"We have eighteen milch cows. We buy our butter. We do not use very much tea or coffee.

"We have two or three colored children in this house, and two in the other, St. Joseph's Asylum, across the street. There was a colored child at the Poor-house, and when the various asylum people were there to get the children, nobody wanted to take him. I said, 'I will take the little fellow.' There was a little prejudice against him, among the boys here, but as soon as they found that the Sisters would fix him up and comb down his curly hair, it soon passed away.

"The parents of the majority are foreigners, Irish, English, Polish and German. One boy here lost his leg by an accident on the cars. About one-eighth of the children here have parents who contribute something toward their support. I think it costs about $1.60 per week to keep them. We have more applicants for admission than we can accommodate."

Additions have been made to the original purchase of land at Limestone Hill, increasing the farm to about three hundred acres. Fifteen acres of this tract have been appropriated to the uses of the Protectory. The soil is a sandy loam lying upon an elevated ridge, about a mile from the shore of Lake Erie. About one hundred and twenty acres are in meadow land and a hundred acres in pasture. The remainder is in woodland excepting some twelve acres under garden cultivation, in which potatoes, cabbages and early potatoes are mostly grown There is an orchard of about three acres of grafted fruit on the place. It does not, however, supply all the apples needed, as it is subject to lawless depredations.

The buildings are heated by steam, lighted with kerosene and ventilated by fire-places. Drinking water is supplied from good wells. Four or five cisterns are in use for preserving the rain water. It is intended to put tanks under the roofs and distribute soft water in pipes throughout the building. The drainage is imperfect; the bathing facilities are insufficient, but a building is now being constructed ample for the purpose. The children bathe twice a week, some once a day for a time. There are some children that have to be kept, for a time, away by themselves, being covered with vermin when they come in. The water-closets are detached. The washing and ironing are done in a separate building. The boys sleep singly on straw beds and on French bedsteads. One of the Brothers sleeps in each of the dormitory rooms. The dormitories are also classified, the good boys getting the best. The beds have white counterpanes. All the boys' clothing, including shoes and stockings, are made on the premises.

The vegetables are mainly stored in a basement under the barn.

In the work-shops is a thirty horse-power engine, and a large steam boiler. One of the boys runs the engine and has done so for two years

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past. The work-shop is a perfect hive of industry. From sixty to seventy boys were caning seats, the smallest being seven years old. Two circular saws are running, attended by experienced adults. There are, also, among other machinery, two turning and three hand lathes. The work in the factory is done by boys with the exception of about five experienced instructors and workmen. Carved and well-made chairs of a variety of patterns, manufactured in the shop, were shown. The boys are not worked long enough in one position to have it become irksome; but as soon as a boy gets tired he is relieved by another. Thus the machinery is run uninterruptedly. All of the workmen are required to be of good character and habits. The institution, in addition to the Superintendent who is also treasurer, has three Brothers of the Order of the Holy Youth and Infancy of Jesus, and twelve Sisters of the Order of St. Joseph, of whom Mother Philip is Superior, engaged in its work. The Brothers receive, in addition to their simple clothing, $30 a year. There is only one farm hand on the place. There were one hundred and forty-three children in the Protectory at date of visitation.

A chapel for the use of the inmates has recently been constructed near the Reformatory, to which they have access without going upon the street. It is of brick, plain architecture and tasteful in its interior and exterior decorations. The windows are of stained glass, the gift of different individuals, each window bearing the name of the giver. It is designed to accommodate five hundred and forty persons, and has been built at a considerable sacrifice on the part of those directly interested. It has long been a cherished project of the Superintendent.

The friends of this institution are considering the project of erecting some memorial to the late Right Rev. Bishop Timon, and subscriptions have already been made for this purpose. In view of the practical benevolence characteristic of the life of this distinguished prelate, it has been deemed that some expenditure which should perpetuate the good work he was so largely instrumental in inaugurating would be most fitting. It is therefore proposed, in case the means can be raised, to erect here a tasteful brick building, suitably adapted to carry on the shoe-making business, and to dedicate it as a memorial. It is estimated that the carrying out of this project would cost about $12,000. It is hoped that this commendable undertaki will be successful.

The number of children that have come under the charge of Society for the Protection of Destitute Roman Catholic Ch the city of Buffalo," since its organization, is seven hu thirty-eight. The number of boys received during the one hundred and three; the number of boys dischar year was ninety-five. Of these nine were adopted

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fifty-five returned to parents or guardians, seven left without permission, ten transferred to other institutions, five sent out of the State and three otherwise discharged. The number remaining October 1, 1875, was one hundred and thirty-nine. Twenty-eight of these were orphans, forty-one half-orphans and seventy had both parents living. Eighty-eight were of native and fifty-one of foreign parents.

The total expenditure for the year ending October 1, 1875, was $18,616.08. Its indebtedness at that date amounted to $16,505.

It is difficult to estimate either the pecuniary saving or moral benefit to Erie county, and a large district in Western New York, wrought through the agency of this Society. The class upon whom it is asked to exercise its benevolence is an unpromising one, and yet it is believed that its efforts in the way of juvenile reformation are highly successful. In this view it would seem that the work should receive the substantial encouragement of the public in whose interest it is being carried on, and that a more liberal compensation for maintenance of the children than is now paid by the county should be allowed. The sum fixed, one dollar a week *per capita*, falls far short of the actual cost of their support.

St. Joseph's Male Orphan Asylum,

Buffalo,

Is situated in the town of West Seneca, on the opposite side of the highway from the St. John's Protectory. The grounds about it are elevated and command a fine view of Lake Erie, the harbor, and the city of Buffalo. It is but a short distance from railroad stations, two leading lines of which connect it with the city.

This asylum was organized in August, 1849, and incorporated on the 2d of August, 1851. Prior to its establishment, an attempt had been made to provide a home for orphan and destitute boys at Lancaster, in Erie county. In 1849 this was broken up, and the children, forty-seven in number, were brought to Buffalo, under the charge of Father Early, and provided for on Best street in one of the buildings ow occupied by the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity. In 1856 the ldren were transferred to Limestone Hill, where, for a time, they under the care of a band of five Sisters and three Brothers. The belonged to the Order of the Holy Cross, and came from nd, Indiana. They were not, however, fully sustained in work. In 1857 the Right Rev. Bishop Timon, who, in is large benevolence, possessed the rare faculty of just f character, selected from among his seminarians in St. a young man then in his third year of Theology, and

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ordained him priest, placing him over the St. Joseph's Asylum, which was then newly organized at Limestone Hill.

One hundred and five acres of land had been purchased at Limestone Hill for a cemetery. A part of this was set off for the Asylum, and Father Hines came here, as had been previously arranged by the Bishop, on the 7th of May, 1857, and assumed charge. There were then but sixty-eight boys at this place, and the building in use was a frame one. The following named Sisters of the Order of St. Joseph were delegated to assist in the work which was then undertaken: Sister Veronica, Sister Anastasia and Sister Petronella, the last-named since deceased. These Sisters entered upon their self-denying labors, receiving then, as is customary now, no pay, except an allowance of $25 per annum for clothing, etc.

It is thought that a clearer idea of the work that has been done here in the past may be obtained by giving, in a connected form, the answers to the numerous questions asked Father Hines on the day of our visitation.

"The day we came here we did not have any thing but corn meal in the house. Sister Petronella went out to try and buy something. She went down to Martin's Corners, near here, but did not know the way back. While seeking for the road she met Bishop Timon in his buggy, and he said: 'My child, where are you going?' she replied: 'Bishop, we have nothing to eat and I am looking for something to purchase.' He got out of his buggy and put the Sister, with a little orphan boy that was with her, into it, and taking her basket directed her to drive home and he would soon follow. The Sister again lost her way, but the Bishop brought us the basket with something for the children and ourselves to eat.

"We commenced our work here in a small wooden building, twelve by eighteen feet, and lived in it six months. It was erected in front of the square wooden building that was here when I came. The little boys used to sleep over my head, and when they were disorderly I could touch the ceiling with my hand, and call them to order. The bishop next allowed me to go through the diocese and solicit money for the work. It took me a year to get around. I went about from church to church, and presented the condition and claims of the orphans to the congregation, and received the offerings of the charitable, coming home every week to pay the men. We soon set to work to erect a building, which is now the right wing of St. Joseph's Male Orphan Ayslum, across the street. I noticed a man from Buffalo, drawing clay from our farm, and learned from him that he used it in making flower-pots. It occurred to me, that we might make our own brick out of the same material. We got some rude apparatus, and hired two men who were brick-makers, to manage the work; the boys assisted.

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Of course we did not make the very best brick, and some laughed at them, but they made a very good asylum. I cared very little what was said. I tried to do what was for the best. The boys carried the brick away, drew sand and wood with a yoke of cattle, and did every thing else they could do. We quarried our stone near by. The building was three stories high, and forty by fifty, on the ground, and was occupied on the 1st day of November, 1857. It accommodated eighty children. This was the number we had at that time. They were principally orphans, on account of the cholera of 1856 and 1857. During that time, I think the people were more charitable than they are now. I think great public calamities tend to make them so. In those days I performed a great many funeral services. At every service the people gave something for the benefit of the orphans. In the summer of 1859, we were crowded with children, and at the suggestion of Bishop Timon, I made up my mind that I would go through the diocese again and beg. Rochester and Buffalo were then in the same diocese. Each priest gave me a Sunday in his church. I began on the 19th of June, and use to address the people morning and afternoon, and receive their offerings. Bishop Timon gave me $2,000, and we set to work again making brick for another building on the premises. At the same time we quarried stone for the foundation. It was inclosed in the fall of 1859. It is sixty by seventy feet, on the ground, and forms the main portion of St. Joseph's Asylum. Preparations were made to have this work prosecuted vigorously during the winter, and we did all the work we could in the spring of 1860, and had it plastered and were occupying it in July of the same year. During this time, I made my little circuit to get money to pay the hands off, and went along that way. We introduced shoemaking here, and put up a large frame building north of this, forty by fifty feet, two stories high.

"In April, 1860, we employed a foreman and commenced the shoe business. We had at that time plenty of hemlock bark on our land, and we thought it a good plan to tan a little leather. We got a lot of tubs, set them up, and hired a tanner to come out from the city. We gave him three or four boys to help him, and so we began to tan a little. We were encouraged to put up a small frame building the following fall in connection with this enterprise, which did us good service. We tanned all our calf skins. It succeeded well. A year ago last November, our supply of tan-bark was exhausted, and its scarcity in this vicinity made it unadvisable to continue the business any longer. The work, while it lasted, was carried on solely by the orphan children. There were also a great many little boys, too young for this business, who made themselves useful in various ways; some in taking care of the cows, of which we had, in 1860, '61 and '62, about sixty. At this time we had a man who took our farm products daily to the city.

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"After a while one of the boys grew up and attended to it for three years. He is now a wealthy man. His successor is working with us yet, and, by saving his money, has now about $1,000. One of our boys married the daughter of a very respectable man in this neighborhood, and is doing well.

"Our place filled up rapidly during the war, and we went into gardening. We had a large garden, where we cultivated onions, tomatoes, etc. We put the boys to work at hoeing and weeding, so we worked along for some time.

"In 1866, Bishop Timon transferred a number of boys, who properly belonged to the reformatory class, to the St. John's Protectory, and thus this Asylum has since been enabled to devote its energies to the class that are more particularly the objects of its benevolence."

The financial affairs are controlled by a Board of Gentlemen, and Father Hines is still its Superintendent. He is assisted by nine members of the Roman Catholic Order of the Sisters of St. Joseph, of whom Mother Veronica is Superioress. This lady has shared in all the trials incident to the early struggles of the institution, and has labored throughout with a steadfast devotion to the poor children's cause. In an unpretending way her laborious and monotonous round of work goes quietly on, and though the world may be none the wiser, it is certainly much the better for it.

Connected with the institution is a farm of about three hundred acres, which gives employment to a considerable number of the inmates during the summer.

Shoemaking is still carried on to some extent. All boys of a suitable age are engaged in some useful work when not in school. Sufficient time is allowed for recreation. A school is taught in the institution by the Sisters. The boys are not kept long in the Asylum, but are placed out when homes can be found for them in good families.

The building contains large school-rooms, spacious dormitories, a chapel, and other necessary rooms, including those for washing and bathing.

The boys are taught to sing. They acquitted themselves very creditably in this accomplishment on the occasion of our visit.

The Sisters who are occupied in the St. John's Protectory during the day unite with the Sisters in the Asylum for evening prayers, and make their homes here at night.

This Asylum has, since its organization, cared for 1,027 boys. The inmates on October 1, 1875, numbered 118. The number received during the year was fifty, and the number discharged, thirty-five. Of these, seven were adopted, three were indentured, fifteen returned to parents or guardians, and seven transferred to other institutions, or otherwise discharged.

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For children committed by the superintendent of the poor, the county allows one dollar a week. But this it is stated falls far short of the cost of maintaining them.

The total indebtedness of the Asylum was $8,000. Its expenditures during the fiscal year ending October 1, 1875, were $9,652.03.

Some repairs are needed, and improvements might be effected that would bring the Asylum into a higher condition of efficiency. In view of the large amount of voluntary service tendered, and the good work that is being accomplished, it would seem that it should be well sustained.

St. Vincent's Female Orphan Asylum,

Buffalo,

Is situated on the corner of Batavia and Ellicott streets. It is under the management of the Roman Catholic Order of the Sisters of Charity. The sole and absolute title to the property is vested in this community. The Asylum owes its origin to the late Right Reverend Bishop Timon, whose zeal inspired others, and whose personal efforts as well as means contributed largely to sustain it during its subsequent struggles. Twelve Sisters are at present engaged in carrying on its work, Sister Robertina Lenahan being Sister Servant, which office she has filled since 1854. No hired domestics are employed.

The institution was incorporated January 29, 1849. Two brick structures, about twenty-two by seventy-two, and fifty by ninety-five feet, respectively, are at present occupied, with a capacity for about one hundred and twenty-five children. The last-named structure was formerly St. Patrick's Church. The buildings are warmed by both hot air and stoves, lighted by gas, and ventilated by the windows.

The latest visitation was made August 26th. There were then one hundred and twenty-four inmates. The children were out for the day upon an excursion. Sister Robertina kindly furnished the following information regarding the growth and present condition of the Asylum: "The institution commenced in June, 1848. The Buffalo Hospital of the Sisters of Charity and this house were commenced the same year, under the charge of the Sisters of Charity. The institution began with three Sisters, viz: Sisters Anne De Sales, Anacaria and Mary Clare. The inmates increased in number daily. The cholera broke out in 1849, and the poor people required some place for their children. They were brought in here and were obliged to sleep on the floor. The rooms were small. This building was not erected then. They had a two-story cottage back of the present edifice, facing on Batavia street. They also kept a day school, but it was discontinued in July, 1868. Bishop Timon died in April, 1867, and the following vacation

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we discontinued the day school. The number of orphan and destitute children was so great as to demand our entire care. The old church, called St. Patrick's, was given to us in 1855.

"We are very much crowded now. About one hundred and twenty-five is all that we can accommodate, and many are awaiting admission at the present time that we cannot take in for want of room. We need yard room very much. Our location is very unpleasant. The children's play ground is entirely too small. We have bought a place on Main street. The lot is not yet clear, only $6,000 having been paid upon it. Our location here was formerly very healthy, but during the last three years we have noticed our children do not enjoy as good health. We have had eight deaths during the past year, four with scarlet fever and three with consumption. Our children generally range from five years old upwards. We seldom receive them under five, because the Infant Asylum is intended for that class. We take orphans, half-orphans and destitute children. Several at the present time have both parents living, but they would be just as well off without them. We take all classes that apply, without distinction of religion or social status. We desire to keep them long enough to make them useful young women, but if they have parents or friends who wish to take them, we let them go. It takes some time to train them to domestic duties. Again, it is very hard to get them instructed; some are so very dull that it is very difficult even to teach them to read. I do not wish to keep them any longer than is necessary to fit them for work in families.

"We never bind children out, but place them in proper hands so far as we can ascertain. If a child is not contented, or the parties are not satisfied with her, we take her back. If a young girl wishes to go to live out, or to learn any employment or trade, we provide for her. Most of them go to service; a few of them get married. We require parties taking our girls to treat them as their own children, and, if they stay long enough, till they wish to settle in life, to give them something; but it is very seldom they remain that time. We require reports to be made of their condition from time to time. The girls write to us very often, and thus we keep up a correspondence with them, while those living around the city the Sisters see. We have a society formed among our children while in the house. The girls retain their membership after they pass out of the institution, and are required to attend its meetings every Sunday if possible. It is a meeting for young girls. One Sunday we may have thirty or forty, the next not so many. The members are obliged to look after each other, and report to the Sister in charge. One reports why another is absent, and if she is sick, we go to see her. This is one means for looking after our girls. Our children generally turn out well. Some have gone astray,

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and come back again like the prodigal son. As a general thing, however, we have very little trouble with them. In the last twenty years I think there has not been more than four that have not done right. It is very encouraging, because young girls nowadays are very hard to manage."

In one of the rooms of the Asylum is a photographic group of girls. These, Sister Robertina says, "had been at one time either in the house or were members of the Parish school and of this Society. Some of them are now Sisters of Charity, working in hospitals and asylums scattered from New York to New Orleans. We have one girl who was married last year, and who is doing well. She had been in the house eighteen years. When we have a picnic of those in the house, the former inmates, once girls, come and march out with them. Even when they are married they come here to visit, bringing with them their children.

"We aim to make our girls useful members of society. We teach them to respect themselves and that then others will respect them. We try to raise their thoughts above this low don't-care way of girls. We try to instil in their minds the principle that they must work and be independent. We say to them on leaving, 'If you conduct yourself properly you need never want a home.'

"We try to influence our children by kindness, mingled with firmness. For punishment, we put them to bed for half a day. If they are disobedient on Saturday, we do not let them out to church on Sunday. Not to let them out with others is the most effectual kind of punishment. They are accustomed to harsh treatment in their own homes, they do not mind that; but this method is new to them. If they are rude we make them stay up stairs in silence. We very seldom have occasion to use any corporal punishment.

"In regard to education, we teach them reading, writing, geography, arithmetic, grammar and history. We use the same text-books as are used in the public schools. The school department pays the salary of three teachers.

"The girls are taught all kinds of house-work, cooking, washing, ironing, baking, and plain as well as machine-sewing. Dress-making is also taught. All of the girls, as they are growing up, learn to use the sewing-machine, and those who have a taste for embroidery are instructed in it by one of the Sisters. We had a class in knitting, but found it too confining for the little ones, and the time of the larger girls is too important for this employment. The children make all their own clothing. They do their own dress-making and mending, and also make rag carpets. Each makes her own bed and does all her own work. The larger girls have little ones to help them. From about eight years old they commence to do some work. We change

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every week so that each girl learns to do all kinds of work. All the house-work is done by eight o'clock in the morning. Sister Genevieve has had charge of this department for sixteen years. We bake some bread every day, but buy most of our bread. We give the children the same food as we have ourselves; soup, meat and vegetables, with bread and butter, every day. When we have plenty of milk, we give the children bread and milk. We have the milk from six cows. It is brought in twice a day. The children, every day at three o'clock, have a lunch, of either apples and crackers or cake, or something of the kind."

The dormitories are heated by registers in each extremity. Seventy-six wooden bedsteads are in a room which is forty by eighty feet. Beds for the Sisters, inclosed with neat white curtains, are in each corner of the room. Another dormitory for the little ones has twenty bedsteads in it, mostly wooden. The Sisters say: "We find very little trouble in keeping our beds clean. We clean one row every day, and every bedstead in the house once a week." Straw beds and feather pillows are used. The dormitories are kept with the utmost neatness, order and cleanliness. The counterpanes of the beds were folded back and looking down the long range, the folds formed a perfect line. The windows were down and the sunshine was pouring into the room on all sides, the fresh air from the open windows affording good ventilation.

The infirmary had in it one little sick child, about two years old. The house is so crowded that even the infirmary has to be converted into a general sleeping-room at night.

At the date of October 1, 1875, the number of children in the institution, who were orphans, was twenty-nine; half-orphans, seventy-four, and who had both parents living, eighteen. One hundred and two of these came from Erie county, and nineteen from other counties. Twenty-one were of native and one hundred of foreign parentage. Seventeen were in part supported by friends, seventy-nine partially by counties, and twenty-five wholly by the asylum. The whole number received during the year was eighty-five. The number discharged by adoption was ten; the number placed out was seven; the number returned to parents was fifty-two. One left without permission, three were transferred to other institutions, and nine died.

The total expenditure for the fiscal year ending October 1, 1875, amounted to $10,574.97. The indebtedness of the institution, on the 1st October, was $19,000. It has no invested funds.

Little comment upon this useful charity is needed. Its work speaks for itself. Since its organization one thousand one hundred and eighty-seven children have been received into the Asylum and brought

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under its refining and elevating influences. It is greatly to be regretted that it should have to carry so large a burden of debt, and its field of usefulness be thus circumscribed.

St. Mary's Asylum for Widows, Foundlings and Infants.

Buffalo.

This institution is located at 126 Edward street, in a healthy part of the city, upon a lot with about one hundred and twenty feet frontage. The building is a plain brick structure, consisting of a main with two wings, standing thirty-four feet from the street, and having a neatly kept lawn in front. The land upon which it is located was donated by Louis Le Couteulx, Esq., a philanthropic citizen of Buffalo, in 1852.

The Asylum was incorporated January 13, 1852. The necessities out of which it originated are stated as follows: "Before its establishment, poor lying-in women and infants, orphans and foundlings, were obliged to be taken to the hospital of the Sisters of Charity in the city, as they could not all be received in the Orphan Asylum for larger children. It was painful to the Sisters in charge of the hospital to refuse admittance to this class of patients and children. They saw the necessity of opening a separate institution for them. Owing to the breaking out of the cholera in 1854, the hospital of the Sisters of Charity was crowded with patients afflicted with that disease. As the effects were serious on the lying-in patients, it was determined by those whose sympathies were aroused to make other immediate provision for them. Three frame cottages were put upon the Le Couteulx lot, and this class of sufferers were at once transferred there. Previous to this time foundlings were frequently picked up dying or dead on the door-steps, along the streets, in alleys and by-ways; but since the hospital was opened such cases rarely occur."

In 1855, the first wing of the Asylum was erected, having three stories. The central building has four stories, and was built in 1858. An additional wing has since been erected. Under the same roof, but forming a distinct department, is St. Mary's Lying-in Hospital. The whole is under the charge of the Roman Catholic Order of the Sisters of Charity, of which Sister Mary Elizabeth Sinnott is Sister Servant. She is assisted by eight other Sisters. Sister Elizabeth has been in this Asylum six years, and during the war was in the military hospitals, assisting in taking care of the soldiers.

At the date of visitation, the 20th of August, there were about ninety children as inmates. About half of this number were between the ages of three and five years, and the remainder were mainly

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infants. The children, we were informed, are adopted whenever a good opportunity presents, but if remaining at the age of five, the girls are transferred to St. Vincent's Female Orphan Asylum in Buffalo, and the boys to St. Joseph's Male Orphan Asylum at Limestone Hill. Children of delicate constitutions are retained till six years old.

In regard to instruction the Sister in charge says: "The children are so young that about all we can teach them is, who made them, and the Lord's Prayer."

The institution keeps six cows for the use of the children. The milk of one cow is reserved for such infants as are being weaned. It is brought to the Asylum in a separate can night and morning.

The Infants' Asylum is divided into two departments, one for the nursing children, the other for older children. These are on different floors. The department for the nursing children communicates with the Lying-in Hospital, enabling mothers to come in at stated hours to nurse the children; but there is no communication between the older children and the Lying-in Hospital or with the infants. The mothers are as far as possible induced to remain to nurse the children. Each mother who is able must nurse two children, her own and one other.

Sister Elizabeth says: "It is found impracticable to provide as many nurses as desirable." There were about twenty at the date of visitation, and it was found necessary to keep from ten to fifteen children on cows' milk. "They are," says the Sister, "fed with the spoon, as we find it preferable to bottle feeding." In speaking of some of the cases cared for, the Sister said: "It is not long since we had to take in three women with their young children, who came from the city, their husbands abused them so. They had infants in their arms and had, we ascertained, other children sheltered in neighbors' houses. One woman had been going around from house to house, the husband having taken almost every article of clothing from her, and threatening to take her life. One of the others had two children and a baby nine months old. Her husband abused her shamefully. He is almost a savage. He came here to try to get her. The poor thing told me that she had not had a month's peace since her marriage till she came here. 'Unfortunate women' who come here are only received once. We tell them when they are in the house that they never will be received again."

In regard to the health of the children the Sister remarks: "A great many of the children die; they live in proportion as we can procure nurses for them. The Sisters are constantly on the watch to see that the nurses take the same care of the little ones they nurse as of their own. No money can buy their attention to the children, and they will neglect them unless you have a person there to look after them. We go in at all hours of the day and night to examine the

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children, and see that they are not neglected. We require mothers to provide for their children as far as they are able. If a child is nursed for only two weeks and then weaned, it generally lives but two months.

"We have had to beg hard to get funds to improve the building. We have walked often twelve miles a day, collecting money from among the poor to help us in this work."

Our last visitation was made toward evening, when the children were preparing for bed. On entering we found twenty-one little children on their knees, saying, with upraised hands brought together, their simple, childish prayers.

The bathing facilities are ample; closets large and commodious were found on each floor, and in unexceptionable condition. Each child has its towel, which is hung on a separate hook in the bath-room. Under each of these is a little drawer containing a fine and a coarse comb. The children appeared well clothed and clean, and the dormitories, sitting-room, play-room and kitchen were found to be neat and orderly. In the rear of the building is a yard, planked in the center, for the purpose of affording the children air and exercise without dampening their feet. It contains a fine large shade tree with seats around it, and also a swing.

In the rear of the Infants' Asylum and Lying-in Hopsital, is a large brick building recently erected for a laundry. It is conveniently arranged and constructed on modern principles, having good light and ventilation. The lower floor, twenty-five by fifty feet, is divided into washing and drying-rooms. The upper floor is the ironing department, a dumb waiter communicating with it and the lower floor.

The perfect order and scrupulous cleanliness, manifested not only in this building but in every department of the Infant Asylum and the grounds about it, are deemed worthy of special note.

The number of children inmates on October 1, 1875, was eighty-six. Of these forty-two were orphans, thirty-eight half-orphans, and six had both parents living. Thirty-six were of native and fifty of foreign parentage. Seventy-six came from the county of Erie and ten from other counties. The number discharged during the year, by adoption, was nine; the number returned to parents or guardians, forty-three; the number transferred to other institutions, fourteen, and the number who died was ninety-five.

The total receipts for the year ending October 1, 1875, were $15,519.75. Its total expenditures were $17,233.32, of which $5,134.09 was for improvements. The amount of its present indebtedness is $1,300.

As bearing upon the work of the asylum, we quote from the report of the medical attendant of the institution, J. S. Smith, M. D. "The number of infants and children admitted into the asylum, from January 1, 1862, to November 1, 1875, was 1,209. The number of infants

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born in the hospital was 905, making a total of 2,114. Of these 1,080 have died, and 1,034 have either been adopted into families, transferred to other institutions when old enough to be educated, or remain yet in the institution. A large proportion of the infants attempted to be raised by hand have died, although receiving every possible care and attention that the means of the Sisters would allow as to food, ventilation, cleanliness, etc. It is very gratifying to state, however, that with better facilities and larger experience a greater proportion of infants are now being raised.

"For the children of two years old and upwards, the percentage of mortality has not been as great as in the city at large. During a recent epidemic of scarlet fever, only two deaths occurred in sixty-two cases. These results could only be attained through nurses possessing experience and willing to sacrifice their own ease and comfort to the welfare of the sick and suffering under their care.

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"It gives me great pleasure," the doctor continues, "to testify to the cheerful perseverance and judicious management manifested by the Sisters in fulfilling the arduous duties they have taken upon themselves."

Ontario Orphan Asylum.

Canandaigua.

This Asylum stands on Main street, in the northern suburbs of Canandaigua, surrounded by a beautiful grove of forest trees. Its situation is healthful and pleasant.

The history of the Asylum is in part related as follows: "In 1862, the children left to public charity were generally placed in the poor-house, and fathers, who enlisted during the war, had no other prospect than this for their children, if left orphans and poor. In this state of things, the necessity of an asylum for children became apparent, and the benevolently disposed came forward and subscribed pretty liberally toward that object. A small legacy was also received. A building was purchased for $5,000, one-fifth of the amount being paid down. The work was materially aided by a State appropriation of $2,500. The services of a matron and a teacher were secured, and the institution opened its doors for the reception of inmates. It soon had twenty children under its care. People in all parts of the country became interested in the work, and so popular did it become, that in 1868, the Board of Supervisors of Yates county made arrangements to

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